

Message Text

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42

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJ: NUMBER OF FAO MEETINGS

1. WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA'S DECISION TO CUT NUMBER OF FAO MEETINGS AND TO RESTRICT AMOUNT OF STATISTICAL ECONOMIC WORK, THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT CLASHES BETWEEN FAO SECRETARIAT AND MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS INTERESTED IN THEIR OWN AREA OF WORK. TO MEET THIS SITUATION, DEPARTMENT SHOULD EXPAND OUR DELEGATION'S INSTRUCTIONS ON HOLDING OF NEXT MEETING AND REQUESTS FOR MORE STATISTICAL WORK.

2. USG HAS LONG SUPPORTED REDUCTION OF FAO MEETINGS IN GENERAL, BUT THIS POSITION HAS BEEN WEAKENED WHEN APPLIED TO SPECIFIC CONFERENCES. RECOMMEND USG INSTRUCTIONS ON HOLDING OF NEXT MEETING BE ALTER FROM USUAL "ONE MEETING A YEAR" TO "ONE MEETING A YEAR OR A LONGER INTERVAL IF RECOMMENDED BY FAO SECRETARIAT." AS SATISFACTORY FALL-BACK POSITION, BECAUSE DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT CAN OVERTURN FRUITS OF WHOLE MEETING AS IT THREATENED TO DO IN RECENT JUTE MEETING, AND TO LESSER EXTENT IN RICE MEETING, U.S. DELEGATE SHOULD ASK CHAIRMAN OF MEETING IN CONSULTATION WITH FAO SECRETARIAT (DIRECTOR-GENERAL) TO CALL NEXT MEETING. SINCE GD IS TRYING TO CUT

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MEETINGS, THIS WILL USUALLY GUARANTEE SAME RESULT WITHOUT

U.S. DELEGATION BEARING BRUNT OF OPPOSING WHATEVER COUNTRY
IS PRESSING FOR EARLY MEETING.

3. REQUESTS FOR STATISTICAL WORK ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE
BECAUSE U.S. FREQUENTLY SUPPORTIVE OF FAO LONGER TERM ECONOMIC
STUDIES. HOWEVER, USG CANNOT SUPPORT GD'S EMPHASIS ON SHORTER
TERM, ACTION PROGRAM WITH CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL DEPARTMENT AND CONTINUE TO ASK FOR MORE LONG TERM
STUDIES, OR PRESS FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF STUDIES ALREADY UNDER-
WAY. INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS ON FAO
STATISTICAL OR LONG TERM ECONOMIC STUDIES SHOULD BE REVIEWED
CAREFULLY IN LIGHT OF GD'S REVISED FAO PROGRAM.

4. ISSUE WILL BE CLEARER AFTER FAO COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF REVISED
FAO PROGRAM IN JULY, BUT IN INTERIM MORE COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS
ARE NEEDED ON BOTH ISSUES. FOR FAO COUNCIL SESSION VERY EXPLICIT
AND STRONG POSITION WILL NEED TO BE PREPARED. VOLPE

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